

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 30. (Cancelled)

31. **(Currently Amended)** The process of claim 41 wherein the DNA probe contains at least 360 contiguous sequences nucleotides corresponding to the genomic RNA of the HIV-3 retrovirus.

32. – 36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 31 wherein the DNA probe comprises SEQ ID NO:1 or the complement thereof.

38. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 31 wherein the DNA probe comprises SEQ ID NO:2 or the complement thereof.

39. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 31 wherein the DNA probe corresponds to the nucleotide sequence coding for proteins p12, p16 or p25 of the HIV-3 retrovirus or the complement thereof.

40. (Withdrawn) The process of claim 31 wherein the DNA probe corresponds to the nucleotide sequence coding for glycoproteins gp41 or gp120 of the HIV-3 retrovirus or the complement thereof.

41. **(Currently Amended)** A process for the detection of HIV-3 retrovirus or of its RNA in a biological liquid or tissue containing nucleic acid, characterized by:

- a) contacting nucleic acids contained in said biological liquid or tissue with a DNA probe;
- b) hybridizing the nucleic acid from the biological liquid or tissue with the DNA probe under stringent hybridization conditions to form a nucleic acid:DNA probe hybrid;
- c) washing the hybrid under stringent conditions; and
- d) detecting the presence of the nucleic acid:DNA probe hybrid;

wherein the DNA probe specifically hybridizes under stringent conditions with the genomic RNA of the HIV-3 retrovirus deposited at the European Collection of Animal Cell Cultures (ECACC) under No. V88060301.